

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner's comments about the specification of a divisional application being identical to that of its parent are appreciated. That is, of course, the way it should be. However, that is not always the case in the undersigned's experience. In any event, the Examiner is thanked for basing the latest grounds of rejection on the Farber '791 patent so that there can be no confusion about the "prior art" status of whatever is found therewithin.

The Examiner questions which claim the Applicant might have been referring to in earlier argument, where the Applicant contrasted the system of Farber which copies a file if it is changed in order to update a cache to the Applicant's system which will copy a file if it not changed. To answer the Examiner's query, that contrast applies to every claim that was then pending. In particular, claim 1 as it then existed requires denial of access if the digital signature associated with the requested computer file is invalid (i.e., the ultimate step of claim 1 after having retrieved the requested file and its associated signature and then validated the retrieved signature, etc.). Independent claim 4 includes a similar final step of denial (as does the final step of every other independent claim, 5, 7 and 9).

The Examiner goes on to address portions of Farber '791 (33:31-39) which the Examiner apparently believes to contradict the Applicant's earlier argument.

However, Farber '7914 explicitly teaches:

"If a data item with the same True Name already exists at the destination location (processor), then there is no need to copy the data item." [33:31-32]

It is clear from the preceding lines (33:19-30), that "copy" here means providing a copy from a source computer to a destination computer.

In Applicant's previous response (page 8, second paragraph), it was thus explained that "...the system of Farber **will copy a file if it is changed** in order to update a cache. In contrast, Applicant's system **will copy a file if it is not changed.**"

Accordingly, the first sentence (i.e., that at column 33, lines 31 to 33) says the same thing as Applicant said in its last response. That is, Farber will copy a file **if it is changed**. Logically, that is the same as saying Farber **will not copy a file if it is the same**. This is precisely what the sentence at column 33, lines 31 to 33 says. In other words, the first sentence relied on by the Examiner **supports** Applicant's argument - - not the Examiner's argument.

The next sentence in Farber '791 says:

"Note that if a data item which already exists locally at a destination location is still copied to the destination location (for example, because the remote system did not have a True Name for the data item or because it arrives as a stream of un-named data), the Assimilate Data Item primitive mechanism will prevent multiple copies of the data from being created."

This sentence indicates that there are exceptions where Farber will copy a file whether it is changed or not. But that's only what a perfectly conventional client-server would do, i.e., take no account of the integrity of the file. The point is that Applicant's claimed invention requires the server to check the integrity of the file, and then if that integrity exists, serves the file to the client.

The Examiner is right to remind Applicant that it needs to rely on the features of the claim. This aspect of Applicant's invention is found, for example, in the last two features of claim 1 (even as it was last presented - - prior to the above amendment):

"A server computer comprising: ...
means arranged to validate the digital signature or signatures
associated with said at least one requested computer file; and
means arranged to deny said other computer access to said at least

one requested computer file if the digital signature or signature associated with each respective requested computer file is invalid.”

The rejection of claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as allegedly being made “obvious” based on Farber ‘280 and ‘791 in view Messing ‘327, is respectfully traversed. As already made of record, Farber ‘280 does not constitute “prior art” with respect to this application and is therefore disregarded.

In an attempt to move this case forward promptly, all of the independent claims have now been amended so as to provide yet further distinction from Farber ‘791 (whether taken singly or in combination with any desired selected feature of Messing ‘327).

Applicant’s invention as claimed (especially as above amended) still allows pathnames to be used in retrieving files from a computer’s disk, i.e., allows the use of the existing file system. However, Farber interposes a layer over the existing file system which results in the file system only accepting requested for files referred to by a message digest of the file’s content. So, in Farber, changing a file’s content changes the reference (its True Name) to the file. Thus, if a file is changed, it is rendered invisible to the user (because the means of referring to it is lost, or at least broken). It appears that Farber’s proposal results in a very inflexible system that is only suitable for files having fixed content (music tracks for example?). Applicant’s system is better in that it allows an authorized user to edit a file. Editing is, of course, an important capability in relation to all sorts of files, e.g., web-pages, work processing documents and spreadsheets for example.

Claim 1 has been amended to indicate that the server computer can still retrieve and altered file from the file system (i.e., from the hard disk), it just cannot serve it to a remote requester

As will be noted, all other independent claims 4, 5, 7 and 9 have been analogously amended.

Messing does not supply the above-noted deficiencies.

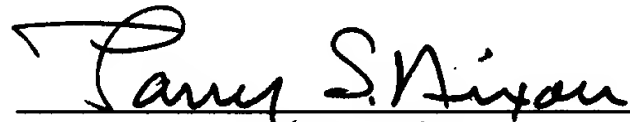
Accordingly, it is not believed necessary at this time to point out additional deficiencies of this allegedly "obvious" combination of references with respect to other features of the independent claims or the additional features of the rejected dependent claims.

A formal notice of allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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